

APPROVED 4-12-05
KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, March 8, 2005
EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Melody Cecilia James, Howard Miller, Helen Nilon, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling

Members Absent: Joshua Freed (excused), James Nobles (excused), Clifford Thurston (excused), Gwendolyn Williams (excused)

Guests Present: Lois Nicholas (potential applicant); Allan Panitch (nominee); Pam Pratt (private citizen); Silvia Singer (VCCC); Eugene Wan (nominee); Nancy Witherbee (nominee)

Staff Present: Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:37 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. MINUTES

Eleanor Owen made a motion that was seconded by Helen Nilon to approve the February 8, 2005 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

III. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Announcements

Gov. Christine Gregoire is signing into law Substitute Bill 1154 for mental health parity tomorrow, March 9, 2005.

NAMI-Eastside is holding an educational forum on "Genetics of Schizophrenia" on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Hospital. Dr. Dorcas Dobie is the presenter.

On Saturday, May 7, 2005, NAMI-Eastside will hold its Third Annual Adolescent Conference at Cougar Ridge in Issaquah from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ron Mandershied will be speaking on Medicaid issues and federal policies at the King County Courthouse, 12th floor on Thursday, March 10th from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Board Chair Ron Sterling encouraged the board to write to the governor and other legislators in support to the return of \$82M funding for mental health services. He passed out copies of the letter he sent to Governor Christine Gregoire. Ron also stated that a coalition called People for a Responsible Budget is being formed to lobby for the \$82M funding for mental health.

B. Board Membership Update

The board held an executive session prior to the board meeting and approved the appointment of Nancy Dow-Witherbee to the board. This recommendation will be forwarded to Jackie MacLean, Department Director, for review and approval before it goes to the King County Executive for appointment and for County Council confirmation.

C. Joint Board Meeting

The joint meeting of the King County Mental Health Advisory Board (KCMHAB) and the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) will be held on Tuesday, April 12th at 4:30pm-6:30pm at the Exchange Building, Conference Room 6A. KCMHAB is hosting this year's joint board meeting.

After a lengthy discussion on what to present at the joint board meeting, the board decided to focus on the issue of homelessness. The board has selected Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) to do a presentation on their mental health and chemical dependency programs for the homeless population. It was also recommended that Bill Hobson, DESC Director, as one of the points to be covered during the presentation, explain the types of funding DESC receives.

Jean Robertson stated that homelessness is in line with one of the department's priorities. She added that the department has a 10-year plan to end homelessness and has hired a person to implement the plan. The board asked that she arrange for him to present the plan at the joint board meeting.

D. Nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair

Board members are encouraged to submit their nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair at the May 10, 2005 board meeting. Election of board officers will be held at the regular board meeting on June 14, 2005.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee

Rep. Cody's SHB1290 is moving through the Washington State legislature. The bill is intended to establish a community mental health program which shall help people experiencing mental illness to retain a respected and productive position in the community through resilience and recovery-based programs, including recognized evidence-based practices. The bill also calls for a DSHS directed procurement process for the mental health system to be put out to bid. Senator Hargrove's SB 5763 is focused on integration of chemical dependency and mental health services.

HB 1194 allows re-importation of certain prescription drugs from Canadian wholesalers. For more information, call 1-800-562-6000.

B. Nominations Committee

There are no pending nominations to date. We continue to seek qualified applicants.

C. Quality Council

Helen Nilon was unable to attend the last Council meeting and had asked Howard Miller to chair the meeting. Howard reported that Dave Murphy gave an excellent presentation on Criminal Justice Initiatives at the February meeting.

D. Recovery Initiative Committee

The committee determined that the Recovery Initiative Committee will continue to exist in conjunction with Supported Employment Workgroup which was formed by the Division. Doug Stevenson is expected to be at the next meeting to provide assistance to the committee as they work on the Recovery Ordinance.

Eleanor encouraged board members to attend future committee meetings as their time allows.

V. STAFF REPORT

A. Disaster Drill

The County held a tabletop disaster drill last March 2, 2005 in which the mental health system participated. The providers' response was phenomenal. There were

130 staff members volunteered. There will be a follow up meeting on Friday, March 11th to discuss what worked and what did not work. The scenario used at the disaster drill was localized to the County.

B. \$82M Loss Funding

Amnon Shoenfeld, Terry Mark, and Tom Bristow continue to work with legislators about the loss of \$82 million in federal funding for mental health treatment and its impact on adults and children with mental illness. So far, between Amnon, Terry and Tom, they have met with all 52 King County legislators. There is a need to continue to educate the legislators because some of them are not aware of the \$82 million issue and its impact on mental health services.

In addition to the \$82 million mental health funding crisis, the Division has two other major issues which are the State Hospital bed crisis and a federal issue to repeal Institutions for Mental Diseases Exclusion. Copies of the briefing papers for these three major issues were distributed at the meeting. Board members were encouraged to use the information from these briefing papers when writing to their legislators. King, Pierce, and Snohomish Executives have put together an op ed piece and sent it to various local newspapers. Unfortunately, the Seattle Times declined to publish the op-ed piece but the King County Journal picked it up.

C. Budget Update

Jean Robertson distributed handouts containing 2005 County RSN Revenue and Expense Projections and walked the board through the document. She stated that the Division had asked the State Forecaster the reason behind the projected drop in Medicaid eligibles. While the number of Medicaid eligibles (source of revenue) is going down, the level of services being provided is increasing (expenditures). Looking at the figures, it is evident that we will not break even with Medicaid services at this time. As of now, the total net revenue (loss) for Medicaid is about \$4.1 million for Medicaid and \$4.8 million for non-Medicaid. The overall shortfall is around \$7.5 million for 2005. King County RSN will still have a deficit of \$4.8 million for 2005 calendar year even if the \$82 million were appropriated to fill the funding gap.

Jean stated that King County has the highest penetration rate in the state. The County's report card reflects an increase in the number of disabled people being served in the County. The Division is seeking answer from the State on the disabled Medicaid population is declining when data shows that the population we are serving is becoming more and more disabled. There is no explanation about the trend at this point.

The board discussed the impact of the new rules on the use of Medicaid and non-Medicaid dollars to individuals with mental illness throughout the state. A question was asked as to who determines the rate is for King County RSN. Jean responded that the State determines the rate.

A comment was made that it would be ideal if the State would create what each RSN needs.

The Division is hoping for some possible solutions pertaining to net loss of Medicaid and non-Medicaid funding. They are RSN-specific rates, additional funding for non-Medicaid services from legislature, and termination of liquidated damages.

What are the RSN specific rates? Jean responded that it will be based on the actuarial study and Unit Cost Survey.

E. RFP for Children

Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) was awarded the contract for the Children's Crisis Outreach Response System. The target date of implementation of the program is May 1, 2005.

F. HIPAA Security Measure Implementation

Jean Robertson stated that effective this week, any non-employee who goes through the hallway leading to Conference Rooms 6A and 6C will need to sign in and get an ID badge from the receptionist as a security measure. The HIPAA Implementation Committee is finalizing another option which is to unlock the door to Conference Room 6A to enable meeting attendees to go in the conference room from the outer hall and keep the door leading to the inner hallway locked.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

Howard Miller: Downtown Emergency Service Center

DESC has hired new people to do fundraising for the agency. The agency finished 2004 under budget; they remain optimistic of calendar year 2005.

Helen Nilon: Seattle Mental Health and Partnership Group

Helen Nilon met with Seattle Mental Health. She will give the highlights of her meeting with SMH at the next board meeting.

There is no additional report on the Partnership Group Meeting since Jean Robertson sufficiently covered it in her staff report.

Eleanor Owen: Western State Hospital

Eleanor Owen was unable to attend the most recent WSH board meeting.

VII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

VIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Ron Sterling
Board Chair